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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Suzanne White. My husband and I own Tumbling Run Catahoulas, a small hobby kennel where we breed 1 litter or less a year. My affiliations are:

Treasurer, York County Dog Training Club
member and UKC Coordinator, Trained N' Talented Canines
member, Obedience Training Club of Harrisburg
member, National Association of Louisiana Catahoulas
member, Catahoula Owner and Breeders Association
member, American Catahoula Association
Coordinator, Catahoula Rescue, Inc.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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We are very active in the dog community, hosting and chairing many events each year. We support whole heartedly responsible dog ownership, and as avid fanciers, would like nothing better than to see irresponsible breeders shut down for good.

However, there are many portions of this proposed amendment that would negatively affect the small responsible breeder and rescue organizations.

While we will never own or breed 26 dogs a year, and if we were to do so, we simply could not afford the kennels and licensing proposed here. Our 2006 litter of 6 puppies were born in the house, in a room off the kitchen where they received round the clock care for the first 8 weeks of their lives. Let's be honest, we lost money on this litter. Between the costs to breed the female, provide superior vet care and hereditary testing – close to \$300 on this single litter.

I've always said if you are breeding dogs right, you are "not making money".

Add to this the cost of training, shows, travel....well you get the picture.

Why punish those whose lives are completely enveloped in "doing it right".

In fact, isn't this making more of a market for the puppy mills to supply to? My puppies, from two real life Champions sold for about \$400. Pet Stores in New York this very day are selling the same breed for \$1200. Real breeders who care about the quality of what they produce don't sell to Pet Stores period.

Please – toughen up the laws on the large commercial kennels – but be aware – the caring breeder who you want to protect and foster is likely already a very unprofitable hobby, and, treat their dogs better than many people treat their children.

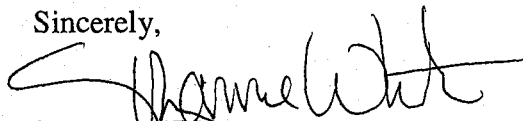
Also, as we are active in rescue - please realize that most rescues, despite the odd ones that make the headlines, operate on little or no budget and on the kindness of their heart. There is no state or federal grants available. The very nature of rescue is such that many become involved for a short while and simply become burned out both mentally and financially, making it doubly difficult for the keeping of records. While this is annoying and inconvenient, until these become high salary jobs with benefits - I don't see a solution to the need.

A number of rescues I have worked with have tougher adoption rules that some agencies adopting human babies - as they have all suffered the heartache when a dog is placed wrong. There has to be a better way to regulate these small independent home based organizations.

Believe me, these small rescues are often the relief valve for larger state/local run facilities. Providing single breed adoption, training, evaluating, puppy fostering, expensive medical care that another larger facility has, neither the time or manpower to do. Forcing these organizations to build commercial kennels and purchase lateral files to deal with all this proposed paperwork is counter productive to the entire system. Indeed, many mainstream shelters look for the home based rescue to place a special dog in - to keep them out of the kennel run.

Please understand that I am not suggestion "NO" regulation, but am encouraging that a more comprehensive look is taken at the "little" guys before they are red taped out of business.

Sincerely,



Suzanne White
101 E Pine St
Mt Holly Springs, PA 17065